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**Title:**  
Speech Opening Compunet, Kent Town

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING COMPUNET. KENT TOWN.

22.9.72

MR. KINSMAN, DR. OVENSTONE, MR. MILLER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;  
THINGS REALLY SEEM TO BE HAPPENING IN THE NORWOOD ELECTORATE WITH  
DEVELOPMENT TAKING - TO SAY THE LEAST - A VARIETY OF FORMS.  
RECENTLY, I HAVE FOUND MYSELF ABLE TO EAT AT A NEW RESTAURANT, GET  
A DOOR FROM A SPECIALIST CENTRE, BUY STAMPS AT A NEW POST OFFICE  
AND NOW, THANKS TO COMPUNET, I'LL BE ABLE TO STEP ROUND THE CORNER  
FROM WHERE I LIVE AND GET MY SUMS DONE ELECTRONICALLY.

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ASKING ME HERE TODAY TO  
OPEN YOUR NEW SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OFFICE. COMPUNET'S FACILITY HERE  
IS A VALUABLE ADDITION TO OUR EXISTING NETWORK OF TECHNOLOGICALLY  
SOPHISTICATED, TERTIARY INDUSTRY. ITS ESTABLISHMENT FURTHER  
HIGHLIGHTS THE WAY WE ARE GROWING AS A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
ORIENTED COMMUNITY WITH A HIGH LEVEL OF PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE-  
BASED ENTERPRISES IN OUR INDUSTRIAL FABRIC. MY GOVERNMENT WELCOMES  
EXPANSION IN THIS AREA. WE BELIEVE ITS GROWTH TO BE INEVITABLE AND

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WE ARE DETERMINED TO DO ALL WE CAN TO ACCELERATE THE PRESENT PACE  
OF DEVELOPMENT.

WE ARE, BY NOW, ACCUSTOMED TO LIVING IN A SOCIETY WHERE CHANGE IS  
THE NORM, AND CHANGE AT AN EVER INCREASING RATE. YESTERDAY'S AWE-  
SHROUDED ELECTRONIC BRAIN IS TODAY'S ALMOST WORKADAY COMPUTER; THE  
DREAM OF SPACE FLIGHT IS TRANSFORMED INTO A COSTLY PROJECT QUESTIONED  
NOT BECAUSE OF WILD IMPRACTICALITY BUT, COLDLY, ON GROUNDS OF COST.  
WE ARE TOLD - AND HARDLY GIVE IT A THOUGHT - THAT OF ALL THE  
SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE EVER LIVED IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, 90  
PER CENT ARE ALIVE TODAY.

BUT OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE ALMOST EXPONENTIAL RATE OF CHANGE AND  
AMOUNT OF INVENTION WHICH MAKE UP OUR WORLD IN THE THIRD QUARTER  
OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SHOULD NOT BLIND US TO WHAT IT MEANS. A  
HUNDRED YEARS AGO THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION WAS AT ITS HEIGHT; TODAY  
THE ELECTRONIC REVOLUTION IS COMING OF AGE.

IT'S A REVOLUTION THAT ISN'T GOING TO TRANSFORM OUR LIVES, IT IS ALREADY DOING SO. IT OFFERS NEW HORIZONS OF WORLD PROSPERITY, LEISURE AND PERSONAL FREEDOM. BUT IT ALSO THREATENS NEW PERILS, OF A POISONED ENVIRONMENT AND OF AN OVER-ORGANISED, IMPERSONAL SOCIETY IN WHICH AN INDIVIDUAL MAY COUNT AS NO MORE THAN SO MANY BITS OF COMPUTERISED INPUT. ONE OF THESE PROBLEMS HAS ALREADY BECOME MANIFEST IN THE THREAT THAT COMPUTERISED INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS POSES TO PERSONAL LIBERTY.

WE ARE ALL, AS SOON AS WE ARE BORN AND REGISTERED, BUY MEDICAL INSURANCE, TAKE AN AIRCRAFT TRIP AND, CERTAINLY, OPEN A BANK OR STORE ACCOUNT, PROCESSED. WE BECOME A DOSSIER, A FILE WHICH WE MAY NOT EVEN KNOW HAS BEEN OPENED AND TO WHICH WE PROBABLY WILL NOT HAVE ACCESS. NOW, OF COURSE, THIS IS NOT A NEW THING.. FILES HAVE BEEN KEPT ON PEOPLE SINCE THE MOMENT THAT SOME ANONYMOUS AND LONG-AGO BUREAUCRAT INVENTED THE WORD. WHAT IS NEW IS THE SHEER

DIMENSION OF THE PROCESS AND THE HIGHLY TECHNICAL MANNER IN WHICH VARIOUS INFORMATION BANKS INTERLOCK AND FEED ON EACH OTHER AND IN THE CAPACITY MODERN TECHNOLOGY CONTAINS FOR MISUSE AND, EQUALLY SERIOUSLY, FOR THE CONTINUATION OF ERROR.

EVERYONE HAS HEARD CHILLING STORIES ABOUT WRONG INFORMATION FED INTO A PARTICULAR DATA COLLECTION CENTRE ABOUT AN INDIVIDUAL WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY AND SERIALY TURNS UP ELSEWHERE FOR YEARS TO DAMN HIM WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE. SOME OF THESE STORIES HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED BUT SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN VERY REAL AND THE POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE DAMAGE IS FRANKLY ALARMING.

THIS IS SOMETHING THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME. WE ARE MAKING DETAILED INVESTIGATIONS AS TO THE ACTION WE CAN TAKE TO GIVE THE PRIVATE CITIZEN A MEASURE OF PROTECTION AGAINST SUCH POTENTIALLY HARMFUL INFORMATION STOREAGE AND PERPETUATION. WE PLAN TO BRING DOWN LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE A MEASURE OF PROTECTION IN THIS AND OTHER AREA

WHERE SCIENTIFIC ADVANCE IS MADE, AT LEAST, POTENTIALLY, AT THE PRICE OF A CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO PRIVACY.

THIS IS A RESPONSIBILITY WHICH GOVERNMENTS, AS THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SUM OF CITIZENS, BEAR AND MUST DISCHARGE. BUT THERE IS ALSO A RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL THOSE WHO HANDLE AND PROCESS THE BASE INFORMATION - ON THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY ITSELF.

THE PACE OF ADVANCE OF THE DATA PROCESSING INDUSTRY AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH ARE BEING THRUST UPON IT ARE SUCH THAT ITS MEMBERS MUST HAVE INCREASING REGARD FOR ETHICAL AND MORAL ISSUES RAISED IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL LIVES.

I THINK THERE WILL, WITHIN A FORESEEABLE FUTURE, NEED TO BE WITHIN THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY THE SAME HIGH REGARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ETHICS - AND MACHINERY FOR THEIR MAINTENANCE AND, IF NECESSARY, ENFORCEMENT - AS IS NOW THE CASE WITH MEDICINE AND THE A.M.A. AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND THE LAW SOCIETY.

THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY IS SUCH, IN THE BENEFITS IT CAN PROVIDE AND THE DANGERS IT MAY BRING, THAT IT WILL, I BELIEVE, NEED TO HAVE BOTH CONTROLS FROM WITHOUT AND POLICING FROM WITHIN.

I KNOW THAT THE CONCERNS I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT ARE SHARED BY MANY THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE IN YOUR INDUSTRY WHO WILL BE AS ANXIOUS, AND WE ARE TO ENSURE THAT IT DEVELOPS BOTH FOR THE PROFIT OF THOSE INVOLVED AND THE WELLBEING OF THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

COMPUNET'S OPERATION IS UNIQUE IN THAT COMPUTER POWER IS SUPPLIED FROM A CENTRAL RESOURCE TO A VARIETY OF OUTLETS ACROSS AUSTRALIA THUS ALLOWING FOR SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIES AND PROVIDING A WIDE RANGE OF FLEXIBILITY, PARTICULARLY FOR COMPANIES WITH INTERSTATE OPERATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS. ITS EXTENSION INTO SOUTH AUSTRALIA WILL BE WELCOMED BY PRESENT CLIENTS WHO CAN THEREBY IMPROVE THEIR SERVICES AND BY THE NEW CUSTOMERS ITS ESTABLISHMENT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SECURE.

I HAVE MUCH PLEASURE, THEREFORE, IN OFFICIALLY DECLARING THE PREMISES OPEN AND THE COMPUTER NETWORK ON STREAM.

THANK YOU.